

Thomas Jefferson to James Madison, February 19, 1812 , from The Works of Thomas Jefferson in Twelve Volumes. Federal Edition. Collected and Edited by Paul Leicester Ford.

TO JAMES MADISON J. MSS.

Monticello Feb. 19. 12.

Dear Sir, —Yours of the 12th has been duly received. I have much doubted whether, in case of a war, Congress would find it practicable to do their part of the business. That a body containing 100 lawyers in it, should direct the measures of a war, is, I fear, impossible; and that thus that member of our Constitution, which is its bulwark, will prove to be an impracticable one from it's cacoethes *loquendi*. It may be doubted how far it has the power, but I am sure it has not the resolution to reduce the right of talking to practicable limits. * * *